

401 West Vineyard Avenue
Oxnard, Ca. 93030

May 27, 1980

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Nan:

First, let me say thanks for arranging for me to take the trip to Washington, and for letting me represent the Fellowship at it. It was an amazing experience, and one I shall treasure for a long, long time. I have never seen so much female church "brass" in my life. There were ecclesiastical bureaucrats upon bureaucrats and I felt like a humble parish priest among the monsignority and maybe even the College of Cardinals!!

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Elizabeth Schussler-Fiorenza of Notre Dame was the theological key-noter. She knows of us, and has been told that she ought to be in touch with us, and would like to speak to us at a major conference. Her address is:

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I thank you again for the opportunity of attending this conference. It reminded me how much work there is to be done, and that it's time for me to stop playing "Poor Me," and get back to work. I came back loaded with statistics to prove what I've been saying, authorities galore to cite, and some new references. I have a number of projects in mind (as above), and just wanted to say (in case anyone still doubts it) that one of the things the women still want done -- in all sorts of denominations -- is for the language to be worked on. I stayed with Jennie Bull and we talked about her work in the area at Wesley. I hope to be taking some courses on Semantics and Religious Language at U.Cal at Santa Barbara next fall, at their School of Religion. Shades of Boston and Linguistics, Fairy Tale and Mythology at Harvard!!

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I am also calling a conference here in mid-California of women clergy, nuns, Jewish women's organizations, etc. to pass on to them what I learned at the conference, borrowing a church from Santa Barbara's host (ess) Rev. Myra Tuttle to hold it in, and with her blessing (and submission of names of women clergy). You are invited to come hear what they have to say, and what their reaction is to what I have to say. Don't know when that will be, maybe to coincide with Copenhagen in July or with the meeting pre-Copenhagen in June. (probably the former).

Saw Adam, had lunch at the Eagle. (Some day I plan to retaliate and take him to dinner at Bonnie's in New York -- or maybe better yet at La Fronde, which is radical feminist and hostile territory). Love that man, though. Also lunched with Larry Uhrig, who is not feeling very well. (As a matter of fact, don't know if it's the mother in me or the nurse both he and Adam related to, but both discussed their health needs with me -- both are feeling overextended and having some stress symptoms -- as are we all.)

What's the score for Samaritan for the fall? Who is going to pick up Jeff's teaching load? Or are there any students left to teach? If I can help, I would like to. I teach a nice Old Testament, Church History, and Preaching series -- or can teach whatever needs to be taught, given a few months or weeks to pull a course together. I still come out of the barn like an old fire horse when September arrives -- once a teacher always a teacher, maybe.

I love you. I am in a much healthier space these days. I am in a new relationship, which while not perfection, is a hell of a lot better for me than any I've had in a long, long time. I also think I am healthy for her. You've met her -- Linda Moritz. She sings and plays guitar, writes music, etc.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

1870-1871

1872-1873



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In gay circles, when one says "Copenhagen" people are likely to look up and grin and think "Christine Jorgensen." But women are thinking Copenhagen with much more serious intent these days.

July 14-30th, Copenhagen will be the scene of the mid-decade conference of the International Decade on Women, a U.N. sponsored conference to weigh progress in the past five years and to look to what needs to be done, worldwide, to bring women into the mainstream educationally, medically, and in employment.

In preparation for that Conference, a group of 150 women clergy, denominational representatives, and heads of women's religious orders and organizations were invited to assemble at the House of Representatives in Washington and make direct input to the State Department as to what they perceived the current needs of women to be from the perspective of organized religious groups, and what they thought needed to be done in the next five years.

The Religious Leaders Consultation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade on Women, 1980, were the guests of the United States Government, we had our credentials and our security clearances checked, and had three days of intensive briefing by major figures from the world of religion, education, health, and employment. For each speaker on the state of things in the United States there was a person to brief us on conditions in developing nations as well.

I had been invited to participate (the entire meeting was by invitation only) and could not really understand for a long time why, for example, one of the Elders or someone far more

important in MCC had not been chosen, but I was grateful and appropriately impressed that I had been the one chosen. As we gathered I found familiar faces in the crowd. Women were there that I had met at the National Council of Churches Commission on Women in Ministry meetings that I had been attending for the last two years representing MCC at the twice yearly meetings. There were also women I had met and worked with (clandestinely) at "Journey to Freedom - Lesbian, Feminist and Christian" a conference we had put together at Kirkridge, Pennsylvania two summers ago. But why was I invited to this meeting?

As the speakers began to describe the lack of progress women had made in the past five years, I began to get a better idea of why I was there. I was there for the same reason all the other women were there. We were there because we were women religious leaders who care about the status of women in our various denominations. We were women who cared enough to sit through three grueling days of as many as 8 major one-hour speeches on the current status of women and not become impatient as we heard over and over again the depressing news that not only had not much progress been made, but in almost every area women have lost ground in the past five years.

Certainly the most interesting speaker of the entire group was Elisabeth Schussler-Fiorenza, a Catholic theologian from Notre Dame Seminary at Hyattsville, Maryland. Schussler-Fiorenza knows about MCC; we had time to talk after one of the speeches, and she said to me "Someone told me that I need to meet with your people and talk with them about liberation theology. They told me we would get along." She spoke to us about the role of

religion and religious institutions in women's struggle for justice and wholeness. Probably the most amusing part of her speech was her description of Anita Bryant (then still married to Bob Green) waiting at the door for her husband to come home and telling herself "Jesus is coming home to me, now." None of us will forget Schussler-Fiorentza's angry German accent as she hissed "That's IDOLATRY of the worst kind!" For those of us who have pleaded for language in the church that reflects God's male and female creation, Schussler-Fiorentza's talk was a rallying cry for us to keep working.

Another moving point was when the Black director of the Conference on the City at Riverside Church in New York spoke on the meaning that the Christian faith has had for Black men and women, the comfort and the hope, and the strength to work against oppression that her people have gained from their deeply held Christian beliefs. Then I knew one of the reasons I was there -- because as that discussion opened up for participation, I, too, could stand and speak for those of us in MCC and in the gay denominational caucuses and speak to the women who were part of the conference and tell them, too, that gay people were learning and had learned from our Black brothers and sisters, that the Christian faith does, indeed, give strength for us to work against oppression -- only in our case, the oppression comes from within the church far too much of the time. I recognized that among the people who had been the inviters there were gay women, who because of their prominence in major denominations could not say some of the things that I as the openly gay and unafraid participant could say -- and those who knew me knew that I would say -- to the women assembled there.

Certainly the information given us was frightening. All of us were a little startled when Congresswoman Lindy Boggs told us that Congress had been approached by a group of scientists who were ready to patent a new form of life which they had created in the laboratory. The bioethicists among the group had much to say to Congresswoman Boggs from their special area of expertise, and we listened both fascinated and maybe even a little terrified that humanity was going to have to deal with the ethics of new life, when we had never really begun to deal ethically with our fellow humans who were so much like us, but who, because of minor differences of skin color, language, or sexuality were sorely oppressed.

We were totally impressed with the candor and expertise of Koryne Horbal, the U.S. Delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Horbal is a woman with a 12th grade education, who came out of a small town in the midwest and who now is one of the most important women in world political circles -- who manages a career, a family, a work schedule that would kill most people, and whose family is willing to part with her nearly six months of the year while she is in either New York or overseas representing the United States. Horbal is down-to-earth, simple, and yet enormously effective. She knows international politics and works effectively. Her ability to deal with hot issues was most impressive, especially when she explained the ways in which countermeasures were being formulated for dealing with U.N. member nations who were prepared to subvert the women's conference at Copenhagen in order to use it as a test area for their fall offensives at the U.N. itself, in order

to deal with questions like the Russian movement into Afghanistan, the Palistinian refugee problem, and the Iranian question -- all of these important on a worldwide basis, but having little or nothing to do with the needs of women in the areas of health, education and employment -- which was the reason the conference had been called. We were receiving an education in international politics and how it is played, and we listened hard and we learned. For many of us who are sheltered in the loving arms of the church, this was an eye-opening glimpse of where women are going and how a lot of well-prepared women are planning to get there.

Probably the star of the show was Jennefer Sebstad, Research Associate for the International Center for Research on Women. Sebstad had facts and figures that opened our eyes -- real consciousness "razors."

50% of graduate degrees go to women; 5% of college professorships are held by women.

97% of all women who work (55% of the total workforce) still work in clerical and service fields. 35% of the men who work work in managerial or professional fields.

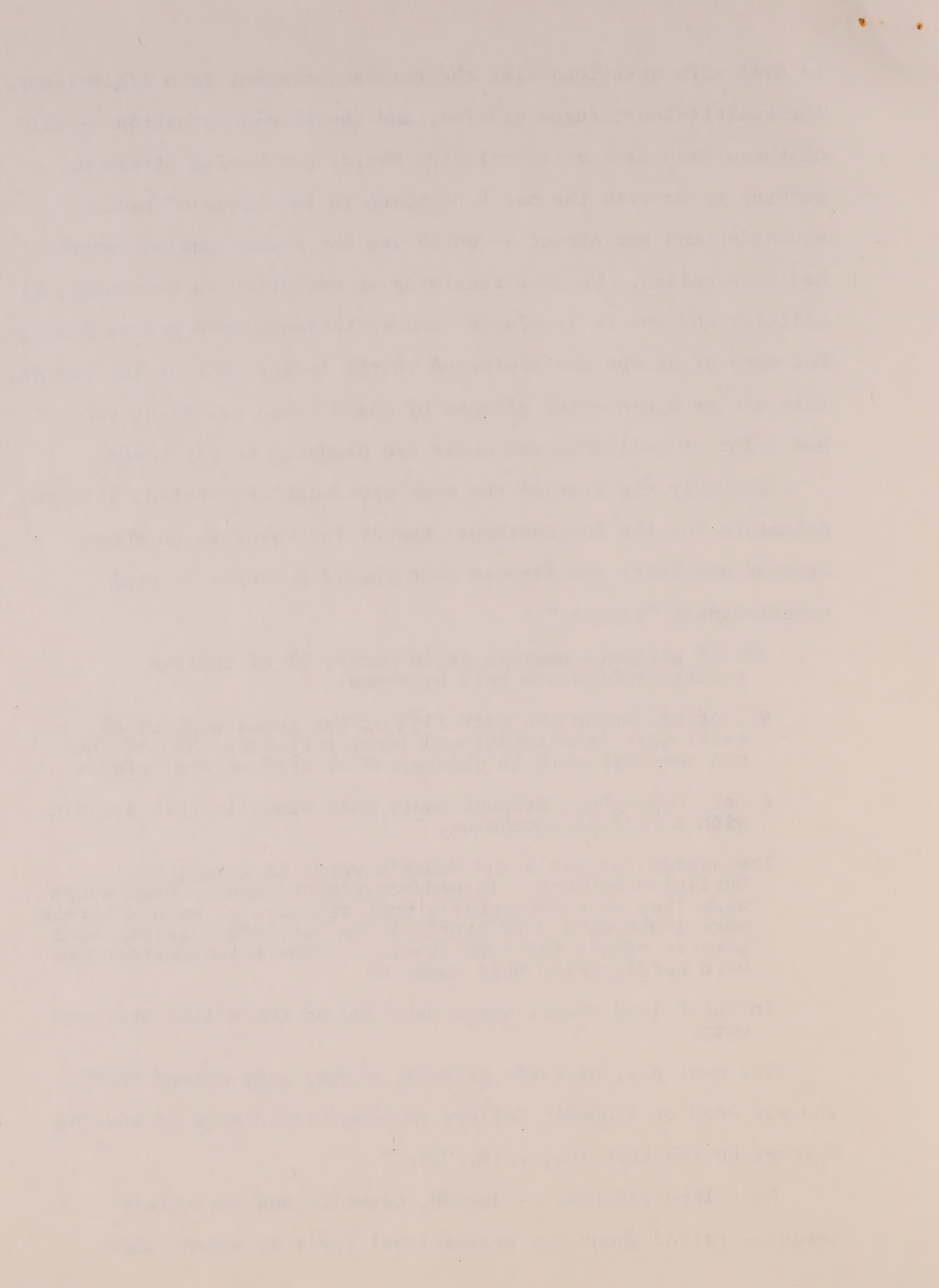
A male highschool dropout makes more annually than a woman with a college education.

The spread for men's and women's wages is greatest in Christian nations. In underdeveloped lands, where women work they make very nearly what men make or even a little more (both make very little.) In Socialist nations both earn at nearly the same level. In Christian nations men earn nearly twice what women do.

In the United States women make 59¢ on the dollar what men earn.

The next day, my table partner, a tiny grey-haired Quaker who was head of a Quaker College on Long Island came in wearing a large button that just said, "59¢."

We talked together -- Jewish, Catholic and Protestant women -- talked about our professional lives as women, about



overcoming oppression within the church. Our Jewish sister, Ellen Umansky, Professor of Religion at Princeton University, talked of the fight Jewish women are making for ordination to the Rabinete in Conservative Judaism, and the opposition of the men within their faith; Nadine Foley, General Councillor of the Adrian Dominican Sisters spoke about the years of struggle Catholic women religious (nuns) have had to be recognized as equal with priests. Many like Sr. Nadine hold Ph.D.'s, are heads of religious orders, are the presidents of major universities or directors of hospitals, but because they are women must answer to parish priests who have less than half their qualifications. She told the story of the Dominicans having done something that displeased the Pope and his unwillingness to come directly to her with it as head of the order, and going to the General Councillor of the male Dominicans, asking him to speak to Sr. Nadine. As she pointed out, she had never had any contact with the male Dominicans, they held nothing in common except their basic Catholic faith, but the Pope would not deal with her because she was a woman.

My table mates, most of whom knew something about MCC, asked me that day, "What about women in MCC? How many of your ministers are now women?" And I remember my feeling of pride as I said "Nearly half of our ministers are women. Four of our seven elders are women. Our founding church has an American Indian woman as its pastor. The number of black and ethnic women ministers is growing in our churches," and it was good to be able to share with them our very real progress toward equality in MCC.

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For me, the most important reason for being there was that MCC is being seen as part of mainstream Christianity. We were there with Methodists, Presbyterians, the whole gamut of churches that the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA represents. We were there as an equal participant. We were there because our record of achievement in gaining equality for women is real and meaningful and is respected by women in other churches. There was pain in being there. There were women there who dared not speak out when issues which touched on gay rights did come up -- for example, the question of medicine and the medical community being used to legitimize oppression against women -- as in the case of labeling women schizophrenics who do not fit the mold for docile, obedient women. I did have an opportunity to speak then about the medical community also being used by the religious community to validate its sanctions against gay people. There is nothing about gayness which is an illness, our difference is basically a normal variant, but it is seen as deviant primarily by the religious community which then works with the legal and medical establishments to create sanctions against us by labelling us as sick or by passing laws which bolster religious convictions. In that context, I was heard and people there understood.

Probably the loneliest person there was Letha Scanzoni -- who represented the Evangelical Women's Caucus -- for she was the only feminist from Evangelical circles who thought enough of what women were doing to want to be there. I had an opportunity to personally say thanks for all of us in MCC to her for her book Is the Homosexual my Neighbor?

I came home impatient. Impatient because while we are ordaining more and more women, we still have much to do to make our faith truly representative of both men and women. We haven't really dealt with our language problems in the church -- and that more than any other single issue was brought out by every one of the reactor groups as an important issue for women in their denomination -- to the point where some of the denominations are talking about changing the very name of their denomination to reflect the increased participation of women; for example, the Church of the Brethren is looking for a new name for its denomination to reflect the increasing number of women in denominational executive positions and in its clergy.

I came home with a renewed sense of mission. There is work to be done. I came home with some of the old anger I thought I had worked through -- mainly because of the lost ground, and the fact that if we don't keep on working for progress, we will tend to slide backward. I came home ready to work, and work hard, and to begin to reach out to other women clergy in my own area -- not just MCC women -- but women who need a pat on the back, a hand held out in friendship, and a word of encouragement when they come up against the hierarchies in their own denominations and are given a hard way to go. My way is not as difficult, and from my strength there may be something I can do for the women near me who may just need to hear that kind of strength speaking out to them.

I also came home with more information than I can ever give here, so possibly some of it will be coming out in bits and pieces over a period of time as I get a chance to reflect and understand just what I did learn. I do expect to share Schussler-

Fiorenza's talk with you, for she has given us permission to publish it in the Gay Christian. I also expect to share some of Jennefer Sebstad's facts and figures with you in the "Consciousness Razors" column of In Unity, because I think there are some things about being women that we all need to be aware of -- particularly our hidden oppression.

I'm not really glad I went because I came home disturbed by what I learned, but I am glad I had the opportunity to be there and represent MCC there. I'm grateful for the political education I received at Washington and I hope to share more of that with you later.

Copenhagen will be a meeting to watch -- just as Houston and Mexico City were places for women to watch. I'm glad we have an MCC at Copenhagen, and I hope our sisters there will be able to attend for us. We need to keep ourselves informed on not only our own narrow parochial view of the the world seen through gay eyes, but those of us who are women, or black, or doubly or triply oppressed need to be aware of who we are, who our oppressors are, and how we can counter that oppression. When we do that, it is a sign that we have grown up politically.

As we began the meeting and as we ended it, we shared our common spiritual tradition. We prayed to our One God, we sang our thanks for having come so far, and we asked for guidance on the road ahead. The heads bowed in reverence shared their faith, renewed their hope, and deepened their commitment to God and to all men and women everywhere -- a commitment that grew out of a faith journey all of us were on -- to wholeness and justice for all people everywhere.

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**Religious Leaders Consultation
on the
World Conference of the United Nations
Decade for Women, 1980**

May 12, 13, 14, 1980

Sponsored by the
Washington Interreligious Staff Council
Task Force on Public Policy Affecting Women

RSVP by March 7

Invitations personal

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I am thinking of calling a conference here in mid-California of women clergy, nuns, Jewish women's organizations, etc. to pass on much of what I learned at the conference, and let them go through some of the procedure. I have asked Rev. Myra Tuttle of La Mesa Presbyterian Church for use of her church (and status) which she has given with her blessing, so that the women clergy especially in the area can get to know each other. You are invited to come hear what they have to say, and what their reaction is to what I have to say. (They are less reactionary, Myra tells me, than our own women clergy as a whole.) I expect that group to coincide with the Copenhagen meeting in July.

I saw Adam while I was in Washington, had lunch at the Eagle with him. (Some day I plan to retaliate and when we are both in New York take him to La Fronde, which is radical feminist and hostile territory.) I love Adam, by the way. Also lunched with Larry Uhrig, who is not feeling very well. (As a matter of fact, don't know if it's the mothering image I have or the nurse that both he and Adam related to, but both discussed their health situation with me, and both are feeling overextended and having some stress symptoms. But then, aren't we all?)

I love you. I am in a healthier place these days. I am going through a change of relationship -- mostly because someone I was interested in doesn't want to follow a gypsy around, and I can't see myself staying forever at Ventura.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

NAN: I have enclosed xeroxes of ^{some} ~~the~~ materials, ^{and some} I had duplicates of, so you can better see the kinds of things we were given as handouts. Also I have enclosed the agenda and a copy of the responses from the reactor groups within the conference. Sebstad, who is about 4'10" and had to have a milk box to stand on so she could be seen over the lectern, was the powerhouse of the conference.

M.R.

Religious Leaders Consultation
on the
World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, 1980

May 12-14, 1980
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

A G E N D A

Monday, May 12

- 10:00-11:00 a.m. Registration RHOB, B338
- 11:00-11:30 a.m. Welcome
✓ Presiding: Claire Randall, General Secretary
 National Council of Churches of Christ, USA
- Worship
- ✓ Keynote Koryne Horbal, U.S. Delegate to the United Nations
 Speaker: Commission on the Status of Women
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch RHOB 339-340
 ✓ Presiding: Letha Scanzoni, Program Chair of
 Evangelical Women's Caucus
- ✓ Speaker: Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza
 Associate Professor of Theology
 University of Notre Dame, Indiana
- "The Role of Religion and Religious Institutions in
Women's Struggle for Justice and Wholeness"
- 2:00-3:15 p.m. Theme I Women and Health RHOB 2318
 Presiding: Betty Shapiro, Past President
 B'nai B'rith Women, International
- Speakers: Alberta Parker, Pediatrician and Consultant for
 National and International Organizations and
 Health Programs
- Barbara Pillsbury, Women in Development Coordinator
Asia Bureau, Agency for International Development
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Session I Reactor Groups: Groups 1-10 RHOB 2318
 Groups 11-15 RHOB 2257
- Introduction to the Process: Maria Riley, O.P.
 Center of Concern
- Judith Hertz
National Federation of Temple
Sisterhoods
- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Reception for the Congresswomen's Caucus
 Capitol Room EF 100

7:00 p.m.

Dinner RHOB, B339-340
Presiding: Lupe Anguiano, President
National Women's Employment and Education, Inc.
Theme II Women and Employment-Income Generation
Speakers: Helen Kramer, Assistant Director of International Affairs
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Jennefer Sebstad, Research Associate
International Center for Research on Women
Session II Reactor Groups - at the dinner tables

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 a.m.

Congresswomen's Caucus RHOB, 2168 A,B
Speaker: Congresswoman Lindy Boggs (D-LA)

10:15 a.m.

Theme III Women and Education RHOB 2168, A,B
✓Presiding: Elizabeth Carroll, RSM, Vice President
Sisters of Mercy, Pittsburgh
Speakers: Irene Tinker, Director, Equity Policy Center
Bernice Sandler, Director, Project on Status and
Education of Women, Association of American Colleges

Session III Reactor Groups: Groups 1-9 RHOB B338
Groups 10-15 RHOB Gold Room 2168, A,B

1:15 p.m.

Lunch RHOB, B339-340
Presiding: Frederick Wertz, President, Board of Global Ministries
United Methodist Church

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Symposium: RHOB Gold Room 2168, A,B
"Religion and Religious Institutions as Experienced by
Women: Liberation And/Or Oppression"
✓Presiding: Joan Martin, Staff Director, Justice For Women
National Council of Churches of Christ, USA
Speakers: Nadine Foley, General Councillor, Adrian Dominican Sisters
Ellen Umansky, Professor, Department of Religion
Princeton University
✓Valerie Russell, Director, Conference on the City,
Riverside Church, New York

4:00-5:30

Session IV Reactor Groups: Groups 1-9 RHOB, B338
Groups 10-15 RHOB Gold Room 2168, A,B

FREE EVENING

Wednesday, May 14

8:30 a.m.

State Department, Room #1912
"U.S. Policy and the Role of the U.S. in Copenhagen"
Presiding: Thelma Adair, President Elect, Church Women United
Speakers: Vivian Derryck, Director, Office of the U.S. Secretariat
for the World Conference of the UN Decade For Women, 1980
Barbara Good, Director, International Women's Programs
International Organizations, Department of State

10:00 a.m.

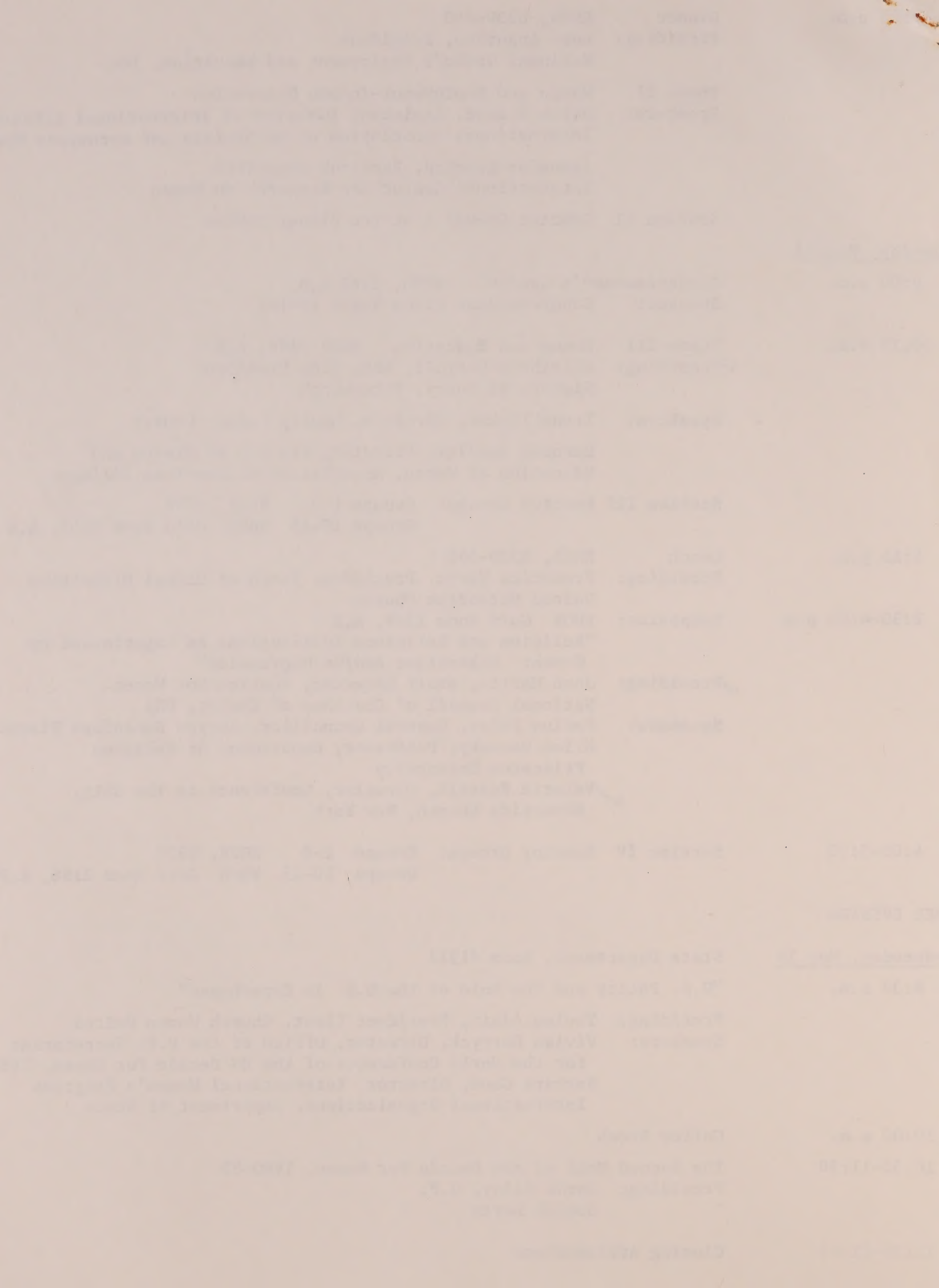
Coffee Break

10:30-11:30

The Second Half of the Decade For Women, 1980-85
Presiding: Maria Riley, O.P.
Judith Hertz

11:30-11:45

Closing Affirmations



Religious Leaders Consultation
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Common Action-Responses from fifteen (15) Reactor Groups

Recognizing the parallels between racism and sexism and seeking to develop complimentary rather than conflicting strategies for the elimination of racism and sexism we propose the following:

HEALTH

- A. Educate our constituencies
 - on health delivery;
 - on health problems particular to women in the U.S. and in developing countries.
 - ~~GENETIC ENGINEERING - MORAL ISSUES~~
- B. Social/Political Action
 - Work for national comprehensive health care plan;
 - Seek membership on boards of health system agencies;
 - Encourage efforts toward health care appropriate to Third World values,

EMPLOYMENT

- A. Educate our constituencies
 - on situation of women in the U.S. work force;
 - on operations of TNC's regarding women;
 - on situation of women in developing countries.
- B. Social/Political Action
 - Support UN efforts toward Code of Ethics for TNC's;
 - Encourage quality Infant and Child Day Care in the public, private and religious sector;
 - Support alternative work patterns and schedules;
 - Promote responsible corporate investment policies in the religious community.
 - Support organizing efforts
 - ~~Promote equal credit for women~~

EDUCATION

A. Analyze

- educational systems, private (religious) and public, in domestic and international arenas;
- Churches' involvement in education mission overseas;
- relevance of learning materials and educational programs to life experiences and expectations world-wide;
- textbooks and sexist language.
- ~~for women's history~~ 5 Second St NE Washington DC 20002
- schools as providers of health care
- employment of trainees & training and/or educat. optys

Survival
- Political education

B. Social/Political Action

- Support alternative functional forms of education world-wide;
- Support the use of strategy-action model of education with the grassroots - i.e. 1) experience 2) think it through 3) organize for action.
- Train and organize women for decision-making roles.
- *Legal struggles for affirmative action*

WOMEN and RELIGION

A. Education

- *continue TO* analyze roles of women within religious institutions;
- educate male hierarchy regarding issues at the UN Conference.

B. Social/Political Action

- *HELP WOMEN CLAIM PERSONHOOD*
- Feminist theologizing; *recapture history of women*
- Sharing resources;
- Eliminate sexist language in Church and Synagogue;
- Seek to eliminate all forms of oppression within Church and Synagogue;
- Challenge our faith groups to respond more fully to the Biblical call to justice.
- Overcome the notion that religion is only a private relationship between a person and God.

COPENHAGEN

1. Encourage U.S. ratification of the Convention on Discrimination Against Women. Also other conventions.
2. Promote study of proposed plan of action and contact delegates with evaluation and recommendations from religious communities.
3. Seek to prepare media for proper coverage at Copenhagen of the substantive issues - Health, Education, Employment.
4. Post-Copenhagen Conference for religious communities' follow-up.

*U.S. voted
against
Preamble*

FUNDS

1. Explore use of Voluntary Fund for religious communities' development projects.
2. Reorder budget priorities in churches, synagogues and government to emphasize human needs.

listen to women from other self-directed ~~person~~ countries, esp of 3rd world.

Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 12, 13, 14, 1980, the Religious Leaders' Consultation on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, records commitment to the human rights of persons everywhere.

Some governments and groups have used the Decade program of action to take positions in relation to their national interests. We deplore the rhetoric, time and energy which focuses on achieving political aims at the expense of universal concerns of women. These political efforts divert attention from the substantive issues of the World Conference; namely, Health, Employment, Education.

We urge religious leaders and other non-governmental representatives and citizens to share with the media and with their own constituents in the United States and other countries the importance of these substantive issues to all women. We pledge ourselves to work for the interests of women round the world.



background notes

FROM THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520 (202) 632-2762

Number 1
June 1979

1980 WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

- The Conference will be held July 14-30, 1980 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Conference is often referred to as the Mid-Decade World Conference on Women, since it will take place at the halfway mark of the UN Decade for Women, 1975-1985.
- The Secretary General of the Conference is Lucille M. Mair of Jamaica, an experienced diplomat who is well regarded in the UN.
- Delegates will be official representatives of all UN member states.
- The U.S. delegation will be appointed by the Secretary of State.
- Nongovernmental organizations with consultative status at the UN may send representatives and provision will be made for them to address the Conference.
- There is no official word yet regarding an unofficial meeting similar to the World Tribune of 1975.
- A Preparatory Committee began planning the Conference in June 1978, and at that time selected the sub-themes of the Conference: Employment, Health and Education. Other agenda items include:
 - Effects of apartheid on women in South Africa;
 - Review and progress made in attaining the objectives of the World Plan of Action in the first half of the UN Decade for Women, 1975-1980.
 - Program of action for the second half of the Decade, 1981-1985.

- In the United States:

- Secretary Vance has announced a new foreign policy directive on the Worldwide Status and Rights of Women, in support of the advancement of women throughout the world.
- The Department of State is presently exploring mechanisms which will open channels of communications with NGOs and individuals in preparation for the 1980 World Conference.
- Many NGOs are beginning to focus on the sub-themes of the Conference, Health, Education and Employment and on the remaining five years of the Decade.
- NGOs in consultative status at the UN are planning a conference between Aug. 27 and Sept. 8, 1979 to discuss plans, issues and determine possible courses of action related to the Mid-Decade Conference. This program will coincide with the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference to be held in New York.

- UNESCO:

Together with all specialized agencies, UNESCO has been asked to participate actively in the preparations for the 1980 UN Conference on Women. UNESCO will review progress made in the achievements of the aims and objectives of the Decade with special reference to education, point to problems encountered and suggest appropriate programs for the second half of the Decade. UNESCO will also publish the findings of several studies on women to serve as background documentation for the debates.

The Executive Board has approved a new financial policy
directed at the maintenance of the balance of payments
within the limits of the agreement of the
Executive Board.

The Executive Board is also actively exploring
possibilities which will open channels of exchange
between the United States and the rest of the world
for the World Conference.

Many more are expected to come to the Conference
at the Conference Center, Washington, D. C., July 1-5
and to the Executive Board's office in the
Department of State.

The Executive Board is also actively exploring
possibilities which will open channels of exchange
between the United States and the rest of the world
for the World Conference.

Together with all specialized agencies, UNESCO has
been asked to participate actively in the prepara-
tions for the 1952 Conference on World Health.
With various agencies and in the framework of
the first and second sessions of the Executive Board
reference to education points to various agencies
and the various agencies for the
second half of the year. UNESCO will also
with the various agencies on which
serve as a basis of discussion for the Conference.

Participation at the Conference

All States will be invited to participate. Delegates will be official representatives of governments.

Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of national liberation movements, which have standing invitations from the General Assembly to send observers to conferences held under its auspices, will also be invited.

In addition, interested non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, will be represented by observers.

Additional information about the Conference

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark, at the "Bella Center"

Media Facilities: Regular United Nations Press and other media facilities will be available at the Conference Centre.

Applications for accreditation should be sent to:

Accreditation Office
Room 386
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

Related Activities at Copenhagen: Encounter for Journalists: a two-day pre-Conference briefing for journalists will be held at the "Bella Center" on 10 and 11 July.

All inquiries should be addressed to: The Secretariat of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women
Room A-555
United Nations
New York, N. Y. 10017, USA

Issued for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women by the Division for Economic and Social Information/DPI



WOMEN 1980



WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

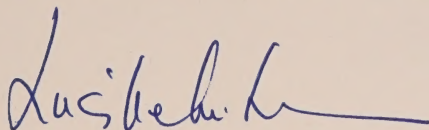
14 - 30 July 1980
"Bella Center"
Copenhagen, Denmark

MESSAGE FROM
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE

"The Copenhagen Conference is taking place at a moment of intense international debate concerning the three goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and particularly the ways and means of redressing economic inequalities between developed and developing countries. The ongoing and difficult search for a New International Economic Order and a New International Development Strategy, which have profound implications for women, will have direct bearing on the objectives of the Conference.

The challenge which we will face in Copenhagen is in shifting women from the periphery of the world's priorities and giving them their rightful place in the mainstream of international and national activities. By overlooking the interests of women in the establishment of these objectives, we are actually depriving humanity of the contribution of half the world's population.

As Copenhagen in 1980 offers the opportunity to measure the present realities of women's conditions against the expectations and targets of 1975 in Mexico City, it will also formulate, with specific emphasis on the areas of Employment, Health and Education, an action-oriented programme for the remainder of the Decade."



Lucille M. Mair

Why another Women's Conference?

The United Nations proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year out of a growing recognition that full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace. The focal point of the Year was the World Conference held at Mexico City, 19 June - 2 July 1975, which proclaimed 1976-1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women with emphasis on Equality, Development and Peace. Besides adopting a World Plan of Action, which listed, among other things, fourteen minimum objectives to be reached by 1980, the Conference also approved a programme for the Decade which set forth specific areas for action focusing on the first half of the Decade, 1976-1980. With that target date in mind, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided at its thirtieth session in 1975 to convene in 1980 — the mid-point of the Decade — a world conference of all States.

Objectives of the Mid-Decade Conference

The Mid-Decade Conference, which will be held in Copenhagen from 14-30 July 1980, will take stock of what has been achieved in the first five years of the Decade by reviewing progress made and obstacles encountered in carrying out the objectives set forth in Mexico. It will, where necessary, adjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research, and design specific action-oriented measures for the remainder of the Decade, with special emphasis on the areas of Employment, Health and Education. In addition, the Conference will analyze the tragic effects of *Apartheid* on women in southern

Africa and adopt special measures of assistance.

The proposed agenda for the Copenhagen Conference covers these major issues.

Preparations for the Conference

The Conference has been asked to provide comprehensive data on the situation of women worldwide and is relying largely on governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies to provide this information.

In order to examine women's conditions in all regions of the world, a series of regional inter-governmental meetings, organized by the regional economic commissions of the United Nations, were held as follows:

Paris	-	9-12 July 1979
New Delhi	-	5-9 November 1979
Caracas	-	12-16 November 1979
Lusaka	-	3-7 December 1979
Damascus	-	10-13 December 1979

In addition, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as WHO and UNESCO, have scheduled sectoral meetings on subjects of importance to women.

On a national level, governments have been asked to identify and describe those development programmes which have been successful in improving women's conditions and promoting the participation of women in economic and social development.

A Preparatory Committee for the Conference, composed of representatives from 23 countries, met twice in 1979 in Vienna and New York. A third meeting is scheduled in New York from 7-18 April 1980.

THEATER EVENTS IN WASHINGTON

May 13, 1980

Kennedy Center

Concert Hall - National Symphony

8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$2.25 - \$15.00

Eisenhower, Terrace, Opera House - all are dark at this time

Reservations: Instant-Charge (202) 857-0900

Arena Stage - 6th & Maine Ave., SW

"Emigres"

8:00 p.m., Tickets: \$7.00, \$9.50

488-3300

Folger - 201 E. Capitol St., SE

"Taming of the Shrew"

8:00 p.m., Tickets: \$9.00

546-4000

Warner - 13th and E Sts., NW

Uncertain at this time

National

"Chorus Line" (subject to change)

628-3393

**Religious Leaders Consultation
on the
World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, 1980**

SPONSORS

April 9, 1980

Dear Participant:

Thank you for responding affirmatively to our invitation to the Religious Leaders' Consultation on the UN Decade for Women, 1980, May 12-14. Religious leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds will be attending and we anticipate a stimulating and informative consultation.

The Planning Committee is finalizing the program. We still await confirmation on the White House breakfast but have been assured we will receive due consideration. We are pleased that Koryn Horbal, U.S. Delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, has agreed to be our keynote speaker Monday morning.

Enclosed you will find UNESCO information on the World Conference, a brief background of the Decade for Women, a fact sheet of U.S. action during the Decade, and the text of a speech by Secretary of State Vance detailing U.S. policy on the Worldwide Status and Rights of Women. We ask that you familiarize yourself with these materials to provide a common base from which to begin our consultation.

Also enclosed are listing of local hotels, close to Capitol Hill or to public transportation, D.C. entertainment during that time and the tentative program for our consultation. We suggest you make arrangements for your accommodations as soon as possible.

Public transportation to the Rayburn House Office Building includes:

- From National Airport, take the Blue Line subway to the Capitol South stop.
- From Dulles Airport, take Greyhound Airport Service to the Capitol Hilton (\$4.75 per person). Walk to the Farragut West subway stop (17 & I St., NW). Take the Blue Line to Capitol South.
- From either the Greyhound or Trailways bus terminal, take the Blue Line subway to the Capitol South stop.
- Both Union Station stop on the Red Line subway or the Capitol South stop on the Blue Line are within walking distance of the conference site.

We look forward to seeing you in May.

In the name of the
Planning Committee

Julie Bowman

Julie Bowman, chair

Lupe Anguiano
Nat'l Women's Employment
and Education, Inc.

Elizabeth Carroll, RSM
Sisters of Mercy, Pittsburgh

Robert Drinan, SJ
U.S. House of Representatives

Margaret Farley, RSM
Yale Divinity School

Eleanor Gregory
United Presbyterian Women

Alexis Herman
Women's Bureau
Department of Labor

Theresa Hoover
Women's Division
United Methodist Church

William Howard
National Council of Churches

M. Theresa Kane, RSM
Leadership Conference of
Women Religious

Thomas C. Kelly, OP
U.S. Catholic Conference

Marjorie Kohen
Nat'l Council of Jewish Women

Esther Kolatch
Women's Division
American Jewish Congress

Dolores Leckey
Nat'l Council of Catholic Bishops
Secretariat for the Laity

Arthur J. Lelyveld
Synagogue Council of America

Norma Levitt
Leadership Conference
Nat'l Jewish Women's Organization

Claire Randall
National Council of Churches

Mary Louise Rowand
Church Women United

Letha Scanzoni
Evangelical Women's Caucus

Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Cong.

Eleanor Schwartz
Nat'l Federation of Temple
Sisterhoods

William Thompson
United Presbyterian Church

Cynthia Wedel
World Council of Churches

Frederick Wertz
United Methodist Church

ACCOMMODATIONS CLOSE TO CAPITOL HILL

	<u>Single Occupancy</u>	<u>Double Room</u>	<u>Triple Room</u>
Commodore Hotel 520 North Capitol St., NW 20001 (202) 628-2300	\$30-35	\$40-45	-----
Granger's Guest House 634 E. Capitol St. (202) 544-3791		--\$10 per day per person--	
Harrington 11th & E St., NW 20004 (202) 628-8140	\$26-30	\$28-32	from \$33
Hyatt Regency Washington 400 New Jersey Ave., NW 20001 (202) 737-1234	\$75-105	\$95-125	\$105-135
Murdock's Guest House 328 Mass. Ave., NE 20002 (202) 547-7270		--\$12-22 per day per person--	
Quality Inn-Capitol Hill 415 New Jersey Ave., NW 20001 (202) 638-1616	\$51-67	\$63-78	\$72-88
Skyline Inn 10 Eye St., SW 20024 (202) 488-7500	\$44-52	\$52-58	\$58-64
Taylor's Guest House 628 E. Capitol St., NE (202) 546-8654		--rates vary--	

ACCOMMODATIONS CLOSE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Best Western-Executive House Hotel 1515 Rhode Island Ave., NW 20005 (202) 232-7000	\$42-50	\$52-60	\$62-70
Capitol Hilton 16th & K St., NW 20036 (202) 393-1000	\$55-110	\$70-110	\$85-110
Dupont Plaza Hotel Conn. & Mass. Ave., NW 20036 (202) 483-6000	\$56-80	\$71-100	-----
Holiday Inn-Central 1501 Rhode Island Ave., NW 20005 (202) 483-2000 800-238-8000	from \$39	from \$49	from \$55
Washington Hilton Hotel 1919 Conn. Ave., NW 20009 (202) 483-3000	\$57-85	\$73-101	\$73-101

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

48

MORECAMBE

FREDERICK C. ATKINSON, 1841-1897

HORATIUS BONAR, 1808-1889

1. Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face, Here would I
 2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God, Here drink with
 3. I have no help but Thine, nor do I need An - oth - er
 4. Mine is the sin, but Thine the right-eous-ness, Mine is the

touch and han-dle things un - seen, Here grasp with firm - er hand e -
 Thee the roy-al wine of heav'n, Here would I lay a - side each
 arm save Thine to lean up - on; It is e - nough, my Lord, e -
 guilt, but Thine the cleans-ing blood; Here is my robe, my ref - uge,

ter - nal grace, And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
 earth-ly load, Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 nough in - deed - My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.
 and my peace, Thy blood, Thy right-eous-ness, O Lord, my God.

Alleluia

49

Traditional melody

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 2. He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, He's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia!

3. He is worthy. . . 4. I will praise Him. . . 5. I will serve Him. . .

An unlimited number of additional stanzas are in current use, or may be devised to suit the mood of the occasion.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

575

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.

Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

Attr. to George Croly, 1867

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

Wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 No sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 All, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear;
 One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pen - ing skies;
 I see thy cross - there teach my heart to cling;
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

And make me love thee as I ought to love.
 But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame. A - men.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. Box A-0 Ventura, Calif. 93002
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (805) 485-9994
Meets at 4949 Foothill Road

SINGSPIRATION TRINITY SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.

P: How manifold are your works, O Lord. In wisdom you have wrought them; All the earth is full of your creatures; Bless the Lord, O my soul.

L: Creatures all look to you to give them good in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand they are filled with good things.

P: If you take away our breath, we perish and return to dust. When you send forth your spirit we are recreated, as you renew the face of the earth.

TOG: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

OPENING HYMN: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY #341

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Prov. 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-15
John 16:12-15

SERMON: Affliction, Endurance, Virtue and Hope
Rev. Marge Ragona

ARE YOU GOING HOME?--SPECIAL MUSIC
Ms. Linda Moritz

Prayers of the People

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God from thee.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Loving God: We know that you are the God who has made us, the Savior who has redeemed us and the Spirit who keeps us ever mindful of you: Hear our prayers, have mercy upon us and pardon our offenses, those done deliberately as well as those done accidentally; those we remember and those we have long forgotten. Keep us from betraying you in our daily lives, and help us always to acknowledge our dependency upon you. Remember us in your dominion, Lord, and renew our lives that we may always be worthy of what you have done for us. In Jesus name, who taught us to pray, saying ...

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

COMMUNION HYMNS:

1. Beneath the Cross of Jesus #303
2. Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Printed
3. It is Well With My Soul #2

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: WHAT A FELLOWSHIP #240

BENEDICTION

* * * * *

As a memorial to Skip Coble, we are attempting to provide one year's care for the child he was taking care of through "Save The Children." Anyone who wants to have a part in this, please make your contribution through the Treasurer, marked "For Skip's Child." We have also sent out this information in our newsletter, which you should be receiving this week.

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Pastor's Home.

New Member's Class: 5:00 p.m. Sunday at the Church.

Watch for our new Rap group, Sunday evening following service. This has been announced in the newsletter and we will have a flyer going out with the July newsletter giving topics.

Pray for: Workers, givers, doers, and lovers.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VENTURA
P.O. Box A-0 Ventura, Calif. 93002
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (805) 485-9994
Meets at 4949 Foothill Road

INSPIRATION TRINITY SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.

P: How manifold are your works, O Lord. In wisdom you have wrought them; All the earth is full of your creatures; Bless the Lord, O my soul.

L: Creatures all look to you to give them good in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand they are filled with good things.

P: If you take away our breath, we perish and return to dust. When you send forth your spirit we are recreated, as you renew the face of the earth.

OG: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

OPENING HYMN: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY #341

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Prov. 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-15
John 16:12-15

SERMON: Affliction, Endurance, Virtue and Hope
Rev. Marge Ragona

ARE YOU GOING HOME?--SPECIAL MUSIC
Ms. Linda Moritz

Prayers of the People

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God from thee.

PRAYER OF AFFECTION: Loving God! We know that you are the God who has made us, the Savior who has redeemed us and the Spirit who keeps us ever mindful of you: Hear our prayers, have mercy upon us and pardon our offenses, those done deliberately as well as those done accidentally; those we remember and those we have long forgotten. Keep us from betraying you in our daily lives, and help us always to acknowledge our dependency upon you. Remember us in your dominion, Lord, and renew our lives that we may always be worthy of what you have done for us. In Jesus name, who taught us to pray, saying ...

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

COMMUNION HYMNS:

1. Beneath the Cross of Jesus #303
2. Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Printed
3. It is Well With My Soul #2

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: WHAT A FELLOWSHIP #240

BENEDICTION

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As a memorial to Skip Coble, we are attempting to provide one year's care for the child he was taking care of through "Save The Children." Anyone who wants to have a part in this, please make your contribution through the Treasurer, marked "For Skip's Child." We have also sent out this information in our newsletter, which you should be receiving this week.

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Pastor's Home.

New Member's Class: 5:00 p.m. Sunday at the Church.

Watch for our new Rap group, Sunday evening following service. This has been announced in the newsletter and we will have a flyer going out with the July newsletter giving topics.

Pray for: Workers, givers, doers, and lovers.

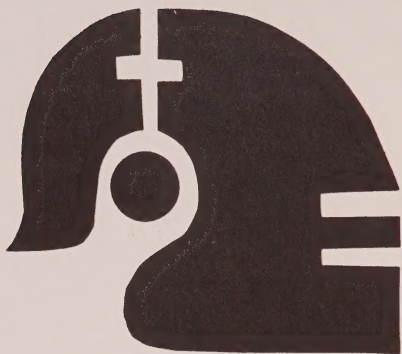
Rev. Marge RAGONA

is invited to participate in a
**Religious Leaders Consultation
on the
World Conference of the United Nations
Decade for Women, 1980**
May 12, 13, 14, 1980

Sponsored by the
Washington Interreligious Staff Council
Task Force on Public Policy Affecting Women

RSVP by March 7

Invitations personal



Sponsors*

Lupe Anguiano
National Women's Employment
and Education, Inc.

Elizabeth Carroll, RSM
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Robert Drinan, SJ
U.S. House of Representatives

Margaret A. Farley, RSM
Yale University School

Eleanor Gregory
United Presbyterian Women
United Presbyterian Church,
U.S.A.

Alexis Herman
Women's Bureau,
Department of Labor

Theresa Hoover
Women's Division,
Board of Global Ministries
United Methodist Church

M. Theresa Kane, RSM
Leadership Conference of
Women Religious

Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
United States Catholic
Conference

Marjorie Kohen
National Council of
Jewish Women

Esther Kolatch
American Jewish
Congresswomen's Division

Dolores Leckey
National Council of
Catholic Bishops
Secretariate for the Laity

Norma Levitt
Leadership Conference of
National Jewish
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Claire Randall
National Council of Churches
United Presbyterian Church,
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Letha Scanzoni
Evangelical Women's Caucus

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations

Eleanor Schwartz
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods

Cynthia Wedel
World Council of Churches
Episcopal Church

Frederick Wertz
United Methodist Board of
Global Ministries

*Organizations listed for
identification purposes only

Tentative Agenda

Monday, May 12

- 10:30 —** Registration
- 11:00 —** Opening Worship
Keynote speaker
- 12:30 —** Luncheon speaker on Education
- 2:00 —** Reactor groups
- 4:30 —** Congresswomen's Caucus Reception
- 7:00 —** Dinner speaker on Health
Reactor groups

Tuesday, May 13

- 8:00 —** White House Breakfast (tentative)
- 11:00 —** Speaker on Employment
Reactor groups
- 1:00 —** Lunch
- 2:30 —** Large group discussion of the impact of religious groups on the attitudes which shape U.S. practices and policies in the areas of employment, education, and health; and discussion of ways in which U.S. religious bodies can work for justice for women in these areas, both here and around the world.
- 5:30 —** Closing prayers

Wednesday, May 14

- 9:00 —** State Department Breakfast (to be confirmed)
U.S. Policy review of U.S.-UN relations
- 11:00 —** Religious response and closing worship

The historical struggle to achieve worldwide equality for women gained new strength and recognition during the UN International Women's Year in 1975. At the UN conference in Mexico City, 1975-1985 was declared the UN Decade for Women. Women from developed and developing countries exchanged ideas and information and attempted to identify problems shared by women around the world. A three-fold goal of equality, development and peace was established for the Decade.

In this, the mid-year of the Decade, a world conference is scheduled to conduct a mid-decade evaluation. On July 14-30, in Copenhagen, Denmark, over 10,000 women representing over 150 countries will meet to determine progress made thus far toward the Decade goals and to develop a plan of action for the remaining five years. The conference will focus on the themes of education, health, and employment as they affect women.

In response to the Copenhagen conference, the Public Policies Affecting Women task force (PPAW) of the Washington Interreligious Staff Council (WISC) is sponsoring a Religious Leaders Consultation on the World Conference on the UN Decade for Women, 1980. WISC is the cooperative effort of Washington-based professional staff of established national religious faiths, including Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish and other faith groups. As the official representatives of our respective religious organizations, WISC attempts to provide an ethical dimension to public policy debate on issues which affect the quality of life for people at home and abroad. PPAW is one of the eight task forces of WISC.

The goal of our consultation is to give the conference visibility within the religious community. As religious leaders in the U.S. we will evaluate progress made within our own country toward achieving equality for women. We will also examine how U.S. foreign assistance programs impact on women's equality and development in the Third World.

To achieve this goal, the purposes of the Consultation include:

1. To study the substantive themes of the World Conference—employment, health, and education as they affect women as well as to reflect on other conference agenda items.
2. To increase understanding of Third World perspectives on these issues.
3. To look at the linkages between the problems women face here and around the world.
4. To learn and discuss U.S. positions which will shape U.S. policies in Copenhagen and to seek ways, where possible, to influence the directions of that policy.
5. To examine the impact of religious groups on the attitudes which shape U.S. practices and policies in the areas of employment, education, and health; and to discuss ways in which U.S. religious bodies can work for justice for women in these issue areas, both here and around the world.

The Consultation will be a forum where 150 U.S. religious leaders will gain vital information on the World Conference and discuss its impact on the struggle for worldwide equality and development for women in the 1980's. Therefore, this invitation is addressed to you, personally. Substitutes may be considered after March 7.

Social Security number, birthdate and place are necessary for clearance to White House events.